

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Previously Presented): An apparatus comprising:

a rotor for a centrifugal separator, the rotor having storing holes each for storing a sample tube with a cap that are formed to be inclined with respect to an axis such that an open end of each of the storing holes is directed toward the axis, wherein contact portions each coming into contact with an outer surface of the cap of the sample tube are formed in open end sides of the storing holes, and the contact portions respectively have notches at portions thereof which face the axis.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the storing holes are arranged at equiangular intervals in a circumferential direction, and the contact portions corresponding to the respective storing holes are connected to each other.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the rotor further comprises an adapter having a holding hole for holding a sample tube with a diameter smaller than that of the sample tube, a contact portion coming into contact with an outer surface of a cap of the sample tube is formed in an open end side of the holding hole, the contact portion has a notch at a portion thereof, and the adapter has an outer diameter which allows the adapter to be stored in the storing hole.

Claim 4 (Withdrawn): An adapter for the centrifugal separator comprising a holding hole for holding the sample tube, wherein a contact portion coming into contact with an outer surface of the cap of the sample tube is formed in an open end side of the holding hole, and the contact portion has a notch at a portion thereof.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): An adapter according to claim 4, wherein the contact portion is formed to be higher than the cap to be attached to the sample tube.